

REMARKS

In view of the Examiner's objections to the drawings, the specification has been amended to include the reference numerals 10 and 11. In the last paragraph of the description, the reference numeral 2a has been changed to 29 (see Fig. 3).

Concerning the Examiner's objection to the term "motif", this term cannot be found in the specification. Rather, the term "motive" or, respectively, motives" is used on page 2, line 33, page 3, lines 8, 9, 21, 22 and on page 6, 8, 18, 19. If, in the Office copy, the term motif should be present, the Examiner is authorized to correct it to -motive- by Examiner's amendment.

It is believed that the amendments overcome to formal objections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, and 7 of the present application under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ku (US 4 559 583) in view of Skene (US 4 503 110).

Ku (US 5 559 583) discloses a light reflection and blinking apparatus for greeting cards, including a light emitter, a means for regulating the emission of light from the light emitter and a length of fiber optic in communication with the light emitter incorporating a means for reflecting the light transmitted by the fiber optic to the outside at a specific location. Actually, Ku shows a light cord which comprises a base layer on which a light emitting element is disposed and a cover layer with a permeable area.

The Examiner acknowledges that Ku does not teach the cover layer having at least one light transparent area which is imprinted with a coloring agent which is impermeable to light.

This however according to the Examiner, is known from Skene.

Skene (US 4 503 110) discloses a foil embossing method using both opaque foils and transparent foils: Various parts of opaque and colored foils are applied by embossing to the transparent foil to form a colorful image or motive, that is, a sheet or panel reflecting light in various color combinations which may well change also with the viewing angle or the light illuminating angle, so that a dazzling display is achieved. However the light is only reflected from the foils. It enters from the viewers side – for which case completely different principles apply.

Skene does not disclose, or apply to, a light card provided with internal lighting according to the present invention.

The light card according to the present invention as defined in claim 1 comprises a base 1, at least one light emitting element 4 disposed on the base 1 and a cover layer 2, which has a light transparent area 7 and which consists of a light permeable foil which, except for the light transparent area 7, is imprinted by a coloring agent which is impermeable to light.

Consequently, the areas of the light permeable foil which are imprinted by the light-impermeable coloring agent appear dark while the areas not imprinted by the light-impermeable coloring agent are lit when the light emitting elements are energized providing a light picture outline.

This is achieved in accordance with the present invention in a very simple inexpensive manner simply by imprinting the transparent foil with a light impermeable coloring agent.

Such a structure is certainly not disclosed by Skene. Skene does not describe imprinting a sheet. It rather suggests the application of various layers of different colors to obtain a colorful light reflective image. A combination of Ku and Skene will therefore certainly not lead to the arrangement according to the present invention and re-consideration of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over the two references is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims define various features which are partially known but are considered to be particularly advantageous in connection with light card as defined in claim 1.

For example, claim 2 defines that the transparent area is imprinted with a bright sign coloring agent which is subjected to ultraviolet light from the light emitting element so that only the bright sign coloring agent appears lit.

Claim 4 defines that the foil is roughened so that light is diffracted for forming a certain pattern.

Claim 5 defines that the card includes intermediate areas that is, hollow spaces in which the light emitting diodes are disposed and in which the power supply and an operating element are disposed,

And claim 9 defines that highly reflective side limit areas are arranged on the base below the light permeable areas.

Furthermore, these claims as well as claims 3, 7 and 10 and also are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1 so that they include all the features of claim 1 and should be patentable already for that reason.

Reconsideration of the dependent is respectfully requested and allowance of claim 1 – 5, 7, 9 and 10 is solicited.

Enclosed herewith is also a certified copy of German application 103 17 467.2 in support of the claim for priority.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. J. Bach".

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No. 26832



FIG 1

